VITAL STATISTICS OF QUEENSLAND.

SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE, 1946.

Queensland vital statistics for the first six months of 1946, which are now available, shows the following outstanding features:-

(i) A high birth rate - the equivalent annual rate being 23.3 births per 1000 population. Although this rate was lower than the high war-time peak of 26.7 in the first half of 1945, it was higher than the rate recorded in the corresponding part of any other year since 1926.

(ii) An extremely high marriage rate - equivalent to an annual rate of 11.3 marriages per 1000 population. Apart from a war-time peak of marriages in 1942, this rate exceeded any marriage rate since the 1860's. This rate is likely to be followed by another upward swing in the birth rate during 1947.

(iii) Another low infantile mortality rate of 28.9 infant deaths per 1000 births - practically the same level as in the first half of 1945. (The year 1945 gave the lowest infantile death rate ever recorded in the State.) The rate of infantile mortality in the metropolitan area was particularly good at 22.2 per 1000 births. General deaths were at about the normal level.

BIRTHS (Table No. 1.):

The number of births (12,667) registered during the first half-year of 1946 was less than the record number registered in the corresponding period in 1945, but slightly higher than the number recorded in the second half of 1945. The crude birth rate was 23.3 per 1000 population compared with 26.7 in the first half of 1945 and an average of 24.8 for the whole of 1945. There were 6,490 males and 6,177 females born, giving a normal masculinity rate of 105.1.

The natural increase (excess of births over deaths) was 7,637 for the half-year, equivalent to an annual rate of 1.4 per cent. of population.

There were 797 ex-nuptial births during the half year, equal to 6.3 per cent. of all births registered. Although still about one per cent. higher than the pre-war level, the rate of ex-nuptial births is gradually returning to normal. During this period, 105 children were legitimated.

Multiple births consisted of 125 sets of twins (comprising 126 males and 124 females) and one set of female triplets.

MARRIAGES (Table No. 2):

Registrations of marriages during the first half of 1946 were very high, and numbered 6,105, (compared with 5,152 in the first half of 1945) giving an annual rate of 11.3 per thousand of population. This rate was the same as the 1942 war-time rate - a rate which had not been obtained since the sixties of last century. The present high rate is probably accounted for by the number of discharges from the services and possibly by a general tendency to marry at earlier ages.

Minors married during the half-year numbered 2,030, comprising 339 males and 1,691 females, equivalent to 5.6 per cent. of males and 27.7 per cent. of females married.

DEATHS (Tables Nos. 1 and 3):

The number of deaths registered during the half-year was 5,030, or 458 more than the low number in the first half of 1945. The equivalent annual rate per thousand of population was 9.3 compared with 8.5 in the corresponding half of 1945. Most of this increase was due to deaths registered in the second quarter of 1946 when the rate rose to 9.8 - compared with 8.5, 9.1 and 9.8 in the second quarters of 1945, 1944 and 1943 respectively.

The increase in the number of deaths was less noticeable in the metropolitan area where the number in the first half-year of 1946 was only 4.6 per cent. above the corresponding 1945 figure. The 1946 figures for the sub-tropical and tropical areas were 15.7 and 10.7 per cent. respectively above the 1945 figures.

Diseases of the heart resulted in 289 more deaths in the first half of 1946 than in the corresponding half of 1945. Causes of death showing increases in both half-yearly and annual comparisons were - cancer and other malignant tumours, intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin, diseases of the heart, pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, suicide, and violent or accidental deaths. Decreases were shown in deaths from - other diseases of the nervous system, diarrhoea and enteritis, other diseases of the genito-urinary system, and pre-natal and early infancy causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Tables 1 and 4):

The infantile mortality rate for the first half of 1946 was 28.9 which is only 0.1 higher than the similar 1945 figure. The metropolitan area showed a decline from 26.3 in the first half of 1945 to 22.2 in 1946, and the figures for the tropical area declined from 37.6 to 33.2. On the other hand, in the sub-tropical non-metropolitan area the rate rose from 26.1 to 32.3. Of all infant deaths 290 (or 79 per cent.) were due to pre-natal causes, of which injury at birth was the only one showing marked variations from the corresponding 1945 figures. Deaths due to injury at birth showed a very satisfactory decline over the period. The decline in the number of deaths due to premature births in the half-yearly comparisons, was more than offset by a previous rise, and resulted in a net increase in the figures for the whole year ended June 30th.

Infant deaths from all causes other than pre-natal causes declined, with the exception of deaths from lobar pneumonia which went up by 1 in 1945-46 compared with 1944-45.

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Brisbane,

10th December, 1946.

TABLE NO. 1 - BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Usual Place of Residence	Births		All Deaths		Deaths Under 1 Year	
	January - June		January - June		January - June	
	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.
METROPOLITAN						
City	509	465	330	366	16	17
Western Suburbs ..	685	622	324	316	20	12
Northern Suburbs ..	900	711	216	227	19	12
Toombul - Sandgate ..	846	795	214	263	13	13
Total North of River ..	2,940	2,593	1,084	1,172	68	54
South Brisbane ..	832	815	355	368	23	24
South Side Suburbs ..	1,285	1,136	421	406	42	23
Total South of River ..	2,117	1,951	776	774	65	47
Total Metropolitan ..	5,057	4,544	1,860	1,946	133	101
NON-METROPOLITAN						
Sub-Tropical						
Bundaberg ..	244	190	80	86	10	5
Gympie	103	102	34	53	1	8
Ipswich	337	279	127	146	15	10
Maryborough ..	170	159	82	68	3	5
Toowoomba ..	472	369	143	183	11	21
Warwick	120	86	30	52	.	4
Total Sub-Trop. Cities	1,446	1,185	493	588	40	53
Total Sub-Trop. Towns	506	437	153	197	9	15
Total Sub-Trop. Shires	4,036	3,703	965	1,083	107	104
Total Sub-Tropical ..	5,988	5,325	1,614	1,868	156	172
Tropical						
Cairns	233	194	79	96	3	6
Charters Towers ..	106	70	90	79	4	3
Mackay	134	136	53	66	2	5
Rockhampton ..	394	357	170	179	20	6
Townsville ..	446	369	140	171	17	11
Total Tropical Cities	1,313	1,126	532	591	46	31
Total Tropical Towns ..	88	106	34	44	3	9
Total Tropical Shires	1,842	1,566	532	581	73	53
Total Tropical ..	3,243	2,798	1,098	1,216	122	93
Total occurring in Q'ld.	14,288	12,667	4,572	5,030	411	366

	Birth Rate (a)		Death Rate (a)		Infantile Mortality Rate (b)	
Metropolitan						
North of River ..	26.8	22.9	9.9	10.4	23.1	20.8
South of River ..	25.7	23.3	9.4	9.3	30.7	24.1
Total	26.3	23.1	9.7	9.9	26.3	22.2
Non-Metropolitan						
Sub-Tropical - Cities	28.4	22.4	9.7	11.1	27.7	44.7
Towns	29.0	26.0	8.8	11.7	17.8	34.3
Shires	27.2	24.9	6.5	7.3	26.5	28.1
Total	27.6	24.4	7.4	8.6	26.1	32.3
Tropical - Cities	24.9	21.4	10.1	11.3	35.0	27.5
Towns and Shires	26.2	22.3	7.7	8.3	39.4	37.1
Total	25.6	22.0	8.7	9.5	37.6	33.2
Total Queensland ..	26.7	23.3	8.5	9.3	28.8	28.9

(a) Equivalent Annual Rate per 1,000 population.
(b) Rate per 1,000 live births.

TABLE NO. 2 - MARRIAGES.

Place of Celebration	MARRIAGES January - June		MINORS MARRIED, 1946 January - June		
	1945	1946	Males	Females	Persons
METROPOLITAN	2,559	2,874	134	640	774
NON-METROPOLITAN					
Sub-Tropical					
Bundaberg	105	161	6	61	67
Gympie	90	110	6	32	38
Ipswich	173	171	5	46	51
Maryborough	93	111	10	29	39
Toowoomba	240	329	20	87	107
Warwick	67	76	3	8	11
Total Sub-Tropical Cities	768	958	50	263	313
Sub-Tropical Other ..	784	1,029	70	377	447
Total Sub-Tropical ..	1,552	1,987	120	640	760
Tropical					
Cairns	117	118	13	38	51
Charters Towers ..	31	44	7	19	26
Mackay	97	149	8	43	51
Rockhampton	180	244	13	67	80
Townsville	226	235	10	53	63
Total Tropical Cities ..	651	790	51	220	271
Tropical Other ..	390	454	34	191	225
Total Tropical ..	1,041	1,244	85	411	496
Total Queensland ..	5,152	6,105	339	1,691	2,030
	Marriage Rate (a)				
Metropolitan	13.3	14.6			
Non-Metropolitan					
Sub-Tropical - Cities	15.1	18.1			
Total	7.2	9.1			
Tropical - Cities	12.3	15.0			
Total	8.2	9.8			
Total Queensland ..	9.6	11.3			

(a) Equivalent Annual Rate per 1000 Population.

TABLE NO. 3 - CAUSES OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF QUEENSLAND.

Diseases - Abridged International List	Jan.-June		Increase or Decrease	Year Ended June		Increase or Decrease
	1945	1946		1945	1946	
Whooping Cough	8	6	- 2	16	13	- 3
Diphtheria	11	9	- 2	17	15	- 2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	151	142	- 9	292	305	+13
Tuberculosis, Other ..	10	8	- 2	17	18	+ 1
Syphilis	16	23	+ 7	47	43	- 4
Influenza	17	22	+ 5	32	38	+ 6
Measles	2	.	- 2	2	.	- 2
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	48	46	- 2	109	95	-14
Cancer and Other Malignant Tumours	571	608	+37	1,143	1,162	+19
Tumours, Non-malignant or unspecified	38	39	+ 1	73	73	.
Chronic Rheumatism and Gout	11	12	+ 1	18	23	+ 5
Diabetes Mellitus ..	72	79	+ 7	166	155	-11
Alcoholism (Acute or Chronic)	6	16	+10	15	23	+ 8
Vitamin Deficiency Diseases, Other General and Blood Diseases, Chronic Poisonings	69	73	+ 4	145	165	+20
Meningitis (simple) and Diseases of Spinal Cord ..	18	25	+ 7	53	39	-14
Intra-cranial Lesions of Vascular Origin	399	445	+46	799	860	+61
Other Diseases of the Nervous System	86	59	-27	138	123	-15
Diseases of the Heart ..	1,191	1,480	+289	2,558	2,921	+363
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ..	90	100	+10	195	220	+25
Bronchitis	28	46	+18	75	99	+24
Pneumonia, Broncho-pneumonia	189	216	+27	403	419	+16
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ..	65	68	+3	143	143	.
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	56	32	-24	90	60	-30
Appendicitis	36	27	- 9	56	52	- 4
Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Passages ..	44	55	+11	90	111	+21
Other Diseases of the Digestive System ..	114	105	- 9	222	230	+ 8
Nephritis	243	237	- 6	509	499	-10
Other Diseases of the Genito-urinary System ..	121	105	-16	193	202	+ 9
Puerperal Infection ..	6	6	.	14	16	+ 2
Other Diseases of Pregnancy and Childbirth ..	27	25	- 2	53	48	- 5
Diseases of Skin and Bone and Organs of Movement ..	12	11	- 1	35	24	-11
Pre-natal and early Infancy Causes	340	303	-37	607	610	+ 3
Senility	173	166	- 7	339	343	+ 4
Suicide	31	58	+27	65	112	+47
Homicide	4	12	+ 8	11	19	+ 8
Automobile Accidents ..	62	76	+14	122	130	+ 8
Other Violent or Accidental Deaths	192	266	+74	409	470	+61
Unspecified or Ill-defined ..	15	24	+ 9	23	39	+16
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:	4,572	5,030	+458	9,294	9,917	+623

TABLE NO. 4 - CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Diseases	January - June		Increase or Decrease	Year Ended June		Increase or Decrease
	1945	1946		1945	1946	
Congenital Malformations	55	53	- 2	106	108	+ 2
Congenital Debility ..	8	9	+ 1	17	13	- 4
Premature Birth ..	148	142	- 6	269	291	+22
Injury at Birth ..	66	37	-29	116	92	-24
Atelectasis	27	28	+ 1	45	54	+ 9
Haemorrhagic Condition of New Born - 1 mth. ..	9	8	- 1	10	12	+ 2
Icterus Neonatorum ..	8	10	+ 2	13	16	+ 3
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	6	3	- 3	8	5	- 3
TOTAL PRE-NATAL CAUSES:	327	290	-37	584	591	+ 7
Whooping Cough ..	6	4	- 2	11	10	- 1
Diphtheria	.	.	.	.	.	.
Convulsions	6	2	- 4	6	2	- 4
Broncho-Pneumonia ..	23	20	- 3	52	45	- 7
Lobar Pneumonia ..	2	4	+ 2	6	7	+ 1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	14	14	.	30	24	- 6
All Other Causes ..	33	32	- 1	71	71	.
TOTAL DEATHS UNDER 12 MONTHS OF AGE ..	411	366	-45	760	750	-10
DEATHS UNDER 1 MONTH OF AGE:	335	281	-54	577	587	+10